Institute of Gerontology

The University of Michigan
300 North Ingalls
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-2007
Telephone: (313) 764-3493
Richard C. Adelman, Ph.D.
Director and Professor of Biological Chemistry

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John Beasley, Chief
Program Development Section
Center for Health Promotion
Michigan Dept. of Public Health
P.O. Box 30195
Lansing, MI 48909

MICHIGAN DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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CENTER FOR HEALTH PROMOTION
CANCER PREVENTION & CONTROL

Dear John:

I am writing to tell you that I am pleased to be an active participant in the State's new anti-tobacco coalition. I have been singularly impressed by MDPH's creative and aggressive tobacco-and-health policy development and am confident that the coalition's efforts, supported and often motivated by MDPH, will yield discernible progress toward the ultimate goal of a tobacco-free society. As an "insider" in some of the Department's efforts (serving as Project Director of the 1980 Governor's Citizens' Panel on Smoking and Health, and as member of the recent Tobacco Reduction Task Force), I have felt privileged to work with the dedicated and intelligent staff of the Center (and its predecessor units). I couldn't resist continuing to do more of the same. The beauty of the coalition approach, as you have organized it, is that it gives us the opportunity to combine the vision of the Center staff with the energy and political clout of the voluntary sector. I was particularly impressed, at the coalition's organizing meeting, with the interaction with staff of state legislators sponsoring anti-tobacco legislation.

I have some specific insight into the ASSIST program, having served as a member of the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Cancer Institute (1985-89) and currently serving on the national Tobacco and Cancer Committee of the American Cancer Society. As such, I am convinced that MDPH is doing excellent spade work to make fertile use of one of the ASSIST grants. I am confident that under your leadership, our State will make significant progress under any circumstances. But the resources (fiscal and human) that an ASSIST award would contribute could greatly facilitate the speed and breadth of the coalition's efforts. I wish you (indeed, therefore all of us) the best of luck in competing for an ASSIST award. Actually, given the quality of thought and organization that have gone into Michigan's planning, I hope that luck plays no role at all.

Sincerely,

Ken Warner

Kenneth E. Warner, Ph.D.
Senior Fellow, Inst. of Gerontology
Professor, School of Public Health

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